

NOTES from MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt



Fly time has passed.
Clean the poultry yard.
Pigs must have sunshine.
Burn the old nesting material.
In producing wool and mutton there is no waste.
A foul dairy makes no producer of prize-winning butter.
Livestock is the basis of most farmers' success in farming.
Sharpen and repair the garden tools for next season's use.
Feed is cheaper and more plentiful than it has been for years.
A cork soaked in oil makes a good substitute for a glass stopper.
All fruit should be graded and crated, especially for private marketing.
So far as can be done select the largest, and best sows for breeders.
Corn will dry out better if the shocks are kept down to a reasonable size.
Deep plowing and the gas tractor are the Gold Dust Twins of the new agriculture.
Wrap the young fruit trees early, to prevent the rabbits from gnawing and killing them.
Many of the troubles with both young and old horses may be traced to bad teeth.
Hogs will be high next year and it will pay to give those fall pigs a good start towards winter.
The first cold rains are hard on the cows and they should be kept in the barn in such weather.
A good pasture makes a brimming milk pail; and silo makes possible good winter pasture.
A little clover or alfalfa mixed with the silage when filling the silo will prove a profitable mixture.
Bran is worth more, pound for pound, as a part of a ration for a work horse than alfalfa meal.
The man who makes a business of cow keeping instead of a chore is on the right road to better profits.
In the development of horses, as well as elsewhere, judgment must be exercised as well as the muscles.
Just how long a breeding sire should be kept depends upon the excellence of the animal in question.
The way to increase the appetite of a horse, if such a thing is necessary, is to change his diet frequently.
'Twill soon be time to bind something around those small fruit trees, to stop rabbits from feasting on the bark.
Baling corn fodder is a new idea, but if it works out well it will save a good deal of hard and disagreeable work.
After all that may be said in favor of other pastures, clover stands at the head when it comes to right thing for pigs.
Mulching isn't to keep the strawberries from freezing, but to keep them from thawing after the ground is frozen.
Extremes and sudden changes in feeding, watering and salting will cause acute indigestion in sheep that is usually fatal.
Bear in mind that corn fodder, or fodder corn, must not be cut early for it means a loss of a large part of its feeding value.
Keep all the rotten fruit well cleaned up around the orchard, as these constitute the winter quarters of numerous orchard pests.
Look over the young stock carefully before disposing of it. A prize heifer or an exceptional colt may slip away and the credit and benefit go to some other man.
In the rush and hurry to keep up with the fall work we must not forget to provide plenty of bedding for all stock and see that it is dry. Wet bedding is a disease producer.
Every sheep that has lost one single tooth through old age is a candidate for the meat market. Don't stand in the way of her getting there; she may not weather another winter.
The most suitable time to apply lime in rotation is when preparing the land for wheat or hay following potatoes and corn, or as a top dressing on young clover and grass.
Potatoes that have taken a second growth are spoiled for table use and are greatly weakened for seed. The same holds good with beets; a second growth destroys the sugar content and makes them woody and tasteless.
A hog trough jammed full of crowding, squealing hogs means that some of them will get cheated out of their share of the slop, which is but another way of saying that you also are being cheated by such mismanagement.

Ability to Utilize and Turn Into Account What Would Otherwise Be Wasted Products Is Determining Factor—First Step Is to Provide Good Fences.

(By W. F. STEVENS, Live Stock Commissioner of Province of Alberta.)

As swine growing is the natural adjunct of dairying, so sheep is the natural accompaniment of extensive wheat farming. The ability to utilize and turn to account what would otherwise be waste products is the determining factor in each case.

The by-products of the wheat farm are weeds, volunteer grains and grasses, weed seeds, shrivelled grain and straw. The first four, sheep will utilize to better advantage than will any other kind of live stock, and only beef cattle and horses will surpass sheep in turning wheat straw to account.

Another reason why sheep should appeal to the extensive wheat farmer is that once he has installed the proper equipment such as fences, open sheds and watering places, they interfere little with his field work. In fact, it is very doubtful if the extra work they occasion during the busy season

SHEEP RAISING AND WHEAT GROWING FEASIBLE AND LUCRATIVE COMBINATION

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above the top of the woven wire fence. These should be attached to the outside of the posts. This arrangement makes burrowing under and vaulting over the fence from the outside very difficult. A woven wire fence 36 inches high with one strand of barbed wire above it is usually sufficient for inside or cross fencing.

The next step is to secure the right kind of sheep. When selecting these, two things should be kept well in mind. They must be of a breed that are noted for being quick to get on their feet after being lambed, else they will require a great deal of attention at lambing time, which, coming as it does in the midst of seeding, the farmer can ill afford to give, and they must be well woolled on the under line, else they will spend too much time about the shelter during the winter months; they will require much more hand feeding and be much more likely to contract disease than they would if they got out every day on clean ground and in the clear air and sunlight.

In managing a flock of sheep it should be remembered that a variety of feed is indispensable. When they are on succulent feed, they should have daily access to dry roughage; when they are on dry feed they should have occasional access to something succulent. A little attention to this important matter will prevent loss from indigestion which has probably caused greater losses among farmers' flocks than any other ailment. A field of native prairie or of brome grass in which there is a pile of straw or a rack of hay to which they can go at will, in order to get a change of feed while cleaning the summer fallow, and another field sown to winter rye early in August, to which they can go occasionally for succulent feed during the winter and spring months, are all that is necessary.

A word of caution may not be out of place in this connection. Turning a hungry sheep on wet rye is very likely to result in bloating. Therefore if the sheep do not have constant access to the rye field, be sure that their appetites are fairly well satisfied and that all dew and raindrops are dried off before the sheep are turned in.

The present is a favorable time to secure foundation stock, because they can still be purchased at moderate prices. The sheep ranchers of the western states are reducing their herds because of scarcity of pasture, and the large numbers going to market are keeping prices at a low level; but once this reduction of herds stops, prices will rise. They will probably not soar as have the prices of cattle and horses, because the frozen mutton of Australia and New Zealand will be drawn on to prevent excessively high prices, but the trade that refuses to accept the frozen article is sufficiently large to permit of a material advance in mutton prices, and this advance is sure to take place as soon as the big ranges have been depleted.



First Prize Yearling Grade Wether.

is not more than offset by the labor they save on the summer fallow in the way of soil packing, weed eradication and the spreading of manure.

Another fact worth considering is that the presence of a flock of sheep on a grain farm does not necessitate a material reduction in the area devoted to grain growing, but on the other hand it never fails to insure a larger yield of better grain, and it makes possible the growing of grain for a longer period of years than can be done without them, or some other kind of livestock.

A certain amount of technical knowledge regarding sheep, their habits, etc., is necessary to success, but the same is equally true of all classes of animals, and amateurs should acquire this knowledge with a small flock in order that their mistakes do not cost them too dearly.

The first step to be taken when embarking in the business of sheep raising is to enclose at least one field with a coyote-proof fence. Additional fields similarly enclosed should be provided as occasion requires, or one's means permit. An effective dog and coyote-proof fence can be made by using a woven wire fence four feet high and attached to the inside of the posts. A strand of barbed wire should be run along the surface of the ground, and another about six inches

WHO'S WHO AND WHY

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KING NICHOLAS PICKED TO START WAR



Declaration of war against Turkey by King Nicholas of Montenegro, followed quickly by several severe engagements between Montenegrin and Turkish forces, are regarded merely as the beginning of a general conflagration in the Balkan states.

It is believed that the other units in the Balkan coalition will follow suit as soon as the mobilization of the armies is complete.

There is only a faint hope now that the representations of the powers will avert general hostilities.

Montenegro's move is considered by many to be part of a prearranged plan. It is asserted that Greece was first selected by the Balkan confederation to force the issue and inaugurate the war.

This could easily have been done by Greece seating in the Greek parliament the deputies from Crete, which was certain to prove a casus belli to Turkey. Greece, however, declined to accept responsibility for starting the flame of battle.

Montenegro was then picked. She had a long standing quarrel with Turkey over the boundary question and Turkey's refusal to grant satisfaction was seized upon as justification for Montenegro's resort to arms.

NEW FIELD OPEN TO E. T. FAIRCHILD

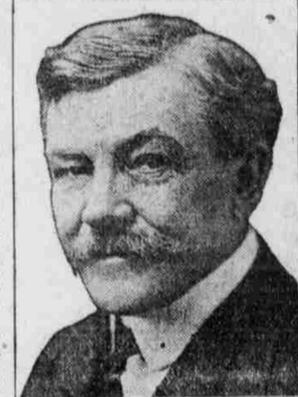
E. T. Fairchild, president of the National Educational association, and superintendent of education of the state of Kansas, has been tendered the presidency of New Hampshire Agricultural college.

The practical benefits of education have been emphasized by Mr. Fairchild in his work in Kansas. The conventional treatment of the sciences in the secondary schools was objected to by Mr. Fairchild as unsuited to the pupil and to his actual needs when he got out of school. It is his idea that all text books, especially in high schools, should follow the plan demanded by teachers of arithmetic—that all the problems presented be of things that concern the active life of the child.

"The present text books are for advanced work and are not practical," Mr. Fairchild said recently. "While the books are written for boys and girls of high school age, still they are so technical and so full of definitions that often they are of no practical use to children after they are through school."

"I believe there is a real demand for textbooks in botany that shall abandon, to a degree at least, the conventional treatment and that will use, as illustrative material, the plant life about us. It is possible to study with profit the trees, the flowers, the wheat, and to learn from them the great truths of the vegetable kingdom."

"There is much practical knowledge to be gained in the physics, but in these too much stress is laid to the theories and not enough to the practical everyday propositions which come up around the farm or the home."



LE GAGNEUX BREAKS ALTITUDE RECORD



M. G. Le Gagneux, the aviator, who the other day at Paris reached the tremendous height of 7,067 yards, more than four miles, when he broke the man-flying record for altitude, has given a graphic description of his feat and sensations.

That his achievement was even greater than it at first seemed was proven by the official and corrected calculations made from the self-registering instruments which he carried on his marine monoplane.

Le Gagneux has gone farther from the earth in a flying machine than any other.

Le Gagneux says: "In two and a half minutes I was 1,500 yards in the air. In seven and a half minutes I was 2,500 yards up, and a little higher I flew into a dead calm. At an altitude of 3,125 yards I found myself in a fog so thick that I could see nothing."

"It grew very cold. I was warmly clad but I felt the chill keenly. The moisture turned to icicles on my face. Only by my barometers could I tell I was still ascending. At 5,020 yards I began to inhale oxygen, as I had been advised."

LIBERALLY FAT FOWLS IN FALL

Over-Fed Hens Are Subject to Serious Troubles—One Remedy Recommended.

(By MRS. C. C. THOMAS.)

Most fowls are liberally fat in the fall, particularly those that have free range because they pick up so much grain, weed seeds, grasshoppers and bugs and as the grain in the field ripens it is a strong temptation to over-feed the poultry.

Over-fed hens are subject to inflammation of the egg passage, and this is a very serious trouble.

Feeding ground pepper or other stimulating poultry feeds to force the laying is almost certain to produce inflammation. The so-called egg feeds advertised are many of them without value, in fact they are harmful.

When the egg passage becomes congested the hen may burst a blood vessel in her efforts to expel the egg and a few days later she will show signs of weakness, the comb will turn dull, the temperature fall low and the bird will die.

The first symptoms are the drooping of the wings, roughing of the feathers and loss of energy.

It is a good plan to keep the pullets and the old hens separated because the hens fatten much quicker than the pullets on the same feed.

If a hen is suffering from inflammation of the egg passage, the egg must be removed soon or the bird will die. This may be accomplished by covering the finger with vasoline and inserting it into the egg passage, meanwhile pressing gently on the left side with the other hand.

Usually this will expel the egg and then the passage should be washed out with a weak solution of carbolic acid by means of a small syringe. A tablet of homeopathic nux vomica—1-100 given in the water for two or three days will effect a complete cure.

The hen must, of course, be fed very lightly for some time until her flesh has been reduced.

SILU REDUCES COST OF FEEDING COWS

Huge Tank Is One of Best Means for Producing Cheaper Feed for Dairy Animals.

Raising cheaper feed is one of the ways to increase the profits on the dairy herd. The dairyman's first consideration is to raise sufficient feed to meet the needs of his cows, then he will be concerned in raising it as cheaply as possible. The question of cheap feed, or cheap production of any kind, has not entered into our system of farm practice as much as it should. That is why so many find that farming does not pay; they are like the merchant who pays all of his profits to clerks that are not efficient. The fault is with the manager in both cases.

The silo is one of the means at hand for producing cheaper feed. It enables the dairyman or farmer to save about 40 per cent of the corn plant and to convert the entire plant into palatable, nutritious, succulent feed for his animals. Then he may raise hay, grain, etc., to balance the ration, utilizing every means possible to reduce the cost of feeding animals.

The silo should not be considered as an expense. It is an investment that will pay dividends in saving the cost of feed and in supplying succulent feed, keeping up the appetite of the animals and saving time in feeding. The silo is one of the several ways of reducing the cost of keeping animals and thus increasing the profits in a corresponding degree.

Stringy Milk.

Stringy milk sometimes makes its appearance early in the summer. The trouble is usually caused by allowing the cows to drink from filthy pools or to lie down in silt filled with germs or to wade through mud that comes in contact with the openings of the teats. Prevention is the best remedy. Keep the animals in clean quarters and allow them to drink only clean water, preferably from a deep well.

SENATOR T. P. GORE BLINDED IN YOUTH

United States Senator Thomas Pryor Gore of Oklahoma is known as "The man that never sleeps" and "The man that never forgets anything." He is one of the remarkable men in American history, because from a poor little boy in Mississippi, blind from the time he was eleven years old, he has arisen by his own effort and indomitable will and courage to become a statesman, a scholar and a foremost citizen.

"The blind senator from Oklahoma" is known all over the country and the people like him because of his amiability, his intelligence, his high character, his oratory and his success as a statesman.

Many persons wonder how he became blind. His sight was totally destroyed. When he was about eight years old he was struck in the left eye by a stick which a young companion threw on the ground and which bounded back. The eye was destroyed. And when he was eleven years old he was a page in the Mississippi state senate. He bought an air gun to take home as a present for a brother, and at the hotel where he was stopping several children were eager to see how the thing worked. Young Gore was just as anxious to show them.

In endeavoring to manipulate the gun a rod became stuck in the barrel and young Gore "peaked" into the barrel with his good eye to see what was wrong. In some manner the gun was discharged and the rod destroyed the right eye. For a time he could still distinguish certain objects, but by the time he was fifteen years old his sight was entirely gone, and he has been totally blind ever since.

